

CALIFORNIA WILDLIFE HABITAT RELATIONSHIPS SYSTEM
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M002 Mt. Lyell Shrew *Sorex lyelli*
Family: Soricidae Order: Insectivora Class: Mammalia

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DISTRIBUTION, ABUNDANCE, AND SEASONALITY

The Mt. Lyell shrew has been found in only a few locations in the vicinity of Mt. Lyell, within or near Yosemite National Park (Ingles 1965) in the Sierra Nevada at elevations above 2000 m (van Zyll de Jong 1999). In all, only 5 specimens were reported prior to 1924. Grinnell and Storer (1924) indicated that 3 of the 5 specimens were found in moist situations near streams, in grass, or under willows. Two more were apparently collected in 1946. Information on the current distribution, status, and habitat association of the species is needed.

SPECIFIC HABITAT REQUIREMENTS

Feeding: Probably eats insects and other invertebrates found while foraging on ground, in stumps, and in logs (Grinnell and Storer 1924, Ingles 1965).

Cover: Uses logs, stumps and other surface objects for cover (Grinnell and Storer 1924). Found in grass or under stream-side willows (Ingles 1965).

Reproduction: No data found.

Water: Requires moist soil; lives in riparian sites (Ingles 1965).

Pattern: No data found.

SPECIES LIFE HISTORY

Activity Patterns: No data found. Presumed active yearlong.

Seasonal Movements/Migration: None documented; a yearlong resident in its restricted range.

Home Range: No data found.

Territory: No data found.

Reproduction: No data found. Young probably born May to August, 2-6 per litter, naked at birth. Few shrews survive a second winter.

Niche: Predators of shrews in general include owls, Steller's jays, and trout (Ingles 1965).

Comments: No published studies of the species found. Closely related to the masked

shrew (*Sorex cinereus*); habits probably similar to dusky shrew.

REFERENCES

- Grinnell, J., and T. I. Storer. 1924. Animal life in the Yosemite. Univ. California Press, Berkeley. 752pp.
- Ingles, L. G. 1965. Mammals of the Pacific states. Stanford Univ. Press, Stanford, CA. 506pp.
- van Zyll de Jong, C. G. 1999. Mt. Lyell shrew: *Sorex lyelli*. Page 30 in Wilson, D. E. and S. Ruff, editors. The Smithsonian book of North American mammals. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington and London. 750pp.